



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

## ODI RESUME

INVESTIGATION: PE 02-026

DATE OPENED: 28-FEB-02

DATE CLOSED: 18-SEP-02

SUBJECT: Inappropriate Air Bag Deployment

PROMPTED BY: IE 02-005

PRINCIPAL ENGINEER: L. Strickland

MANUFACTURER: Ford Motor Company

MODEL(S): Ford Focus

MODEL YEARS: 2000-2001

VEHICLE POPULATION: 576,700

PROBLEM DESCRIPTION: Frontal air bags may deploy due to minor crashes, vehicle undercarriage impact, or in the absence of any type of vehicle impact.

### FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	MANUFACTURER	TOTAL
TOT. COMPLNTS	72	232	304
TOT. CRASHES**	37	124	161
TOT. INJ. CRSHS	37	46	83
TOT INJURIES	38	47	85
TOT FAT. CRSHS	0	0	0
NON-CRSH CMPL	25	92	117
UNKWN. CRSHS	10	16	26

\*\* Crash preceded air bag deployment

ACTION: This Preliminary Evaluation has been closed.

ENGINEER:

L. Strickland

DIV CHF:

[Signature]

OFC DIR:

[Signature]

DATE:

9/17/02

DATE:

9/18/02

DATE:

9-18-02

### SUMMARY:

A net total of 304 complaints were received from all sources during this investigation. Of this total, 161 involved a crash of the vehicle with another vehicle or fixed object. These crashes typically resulted in significant amounts of exterior vehicle damage, indicating that the impacts were more than minimal. Of the remaining 143 air bag deployments, 117 are not attributed to crashes, and are instead the results of vehicle undercarriage impacts with various road hazards. In 26 reports, the information is insufficient to determine whether a crash occurred.

(CONT.)

35-120  
9/20/02